



# Unlocking the Potential of New Faith-Based and Community Partnerships

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Roundtable for  
Families and Children

Creating a Shared Sense of Community



# Rallying the Armies of Compassion

- ◆ “Starting now, the Federal Government is adopting a new attitude to honor and not restrict faith-based and community initiatives, to accept rather than dismiss such programs, and to empower rather than ignore them.”

—President George W. Bush  
January 2001



# Charitable Choice Principles

- ◆ Level Playing Field:
- ◆ Respect for Allies:
- ◆ Protecting Recipients:
- ◆ Legal/Constitutional Issues:



# Level Playing Field: Equal Access

- ◆ Faith-based organizations (FBOs) can compete for government funds to provide services on same basis as other providers.
- ◆ They cannot be excluded because they are religious, “too religious” or of a particular religion.
- ◆ No bias for or against religious organizations who seek to partner with government programs.



# Respect for Allies

- ◆ FBOs benefit from new protections now when they work with government. They can maintain their religious character, name their own governing board, have clergy on board of directors, hire employees who are committed to the religious basis of the program, and display religious symbols.
- ◆ They do not have to be a religion-free zone.



# Protecting Beneficiaries of Service

- ◆ Providers with government contracts must serve all eligible persons without discrimination. Beneficiaries cannot be denied services (job training, child care etc) because of their religion or lack of religion.
- ◆ Beneficiaries cannot be required to take part in activities such as worship, scripture study, or prayer
- ◆ State has duty to provide client with service from alternative program if client objects to receiving services from a faith-based provider



# Legal/Constitutional Issues

- ◆ Certain religious activities (worship services, scripture study, proselytizing) are not permitted as part of the gov't funded part of the organization's program.
- ◆ Government funds may be expended only for public services (for ex. housing rehabilitation, drug addiction prevention recovery, mentoring, job training, after school programs, child care, and not Bible Studies, religious teaching, worship etc.)
- ◆ These activities may be offered if they are separate from the program, privately funded, and voluntary. (If vouchers are used, this restriction does not apply according to recent Supreme Court decisions)






# New Rules for a New Relationship

- ◆ New Rules for existing government programs that work with community groups to provide services
- ◆ TANF (1996)
- ◆ Welfare-to-Work (1997)
- ◆ Community Services Block Grant (1998)
- ◆ SAMHSA Drug Treatment (2000)

New Rules apply whenever state and local governments use these and other federal funds to procure services. Charitable Choice is **mandatory for all states by law** to honor religious freedom.





# Presidential Action: Executive Order (Dec. 2002)

- ◆ Similar rules expanded to many new government programs
- ◆ Community Development Block Grant
- ◆ Home Investment Partnerships Program
- ◆ Emergency Shelter Grant Program
- ◆ Shelter Plus Care
- ◆ Supportive Housing
- ◆ YouthBuild
- ◆ Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
- ◆ State of the Union: new funds for mentoring and drug treatment



# Why is Charitable Choice so Important?

- ◆ Allows gov't to work with the most effective groups whatever their religion or non-religion; equal access for all (faith-based and secular)
- ◆ Gives welfare recipients and other beneficiaries greater choice: access to faith-based services if they choose
- ◆ Allows faith communities to keep their independence and integrity (They are allies and equal partners not an “arm” of the government)
- ◆ This is what the Constitution and First Amendment religious freedoms require to respect citizens' rights



# Charitable Choice IS

- ◆ An invitation to partnership under NEW (more respectful) RULES
- ◆ Not one pot of money set aside... But opening up ALL gov't social programs to participation on equal terms by all community and faith-based groups



# Charitable Choice is NOT

- ◆ NOT a bias in favor of faith-based groups
- ◆ NOT taking the effectiveness of faith-based groups on faith (You must show outcomes)
- ◆ NOT government-funded religion or free money for religious groups
- ◆ It is doing justice to people of all faiths (and non-faiths) in the public square when meeting needs.



# Resources

- ◆ *The Charitable Choice Handbook for Ministry Leaders*
- ◆ *Charitable Choice for Welfare and Community Services*
- ◆ The Center for Public Justice  
[www.cpjustice.org](http://www.cpjustice.org)



# Resources

Center for Public Justice, 866-CPJUSTICE

White House Office of Faith-Based and Community  
Initiatives [www.fbc.gov](http://www.fbc.gov) 202-456-6708

HHS Center for Faith-Based and Community  
Initiatives, (202) 358-3595

HUD Center for Faith-Based and Community  
Initiatives, 202-708-2404



# How to Compete for Contracts

- ◆ Many human services are provided through state contracts with community or private organizations. Faith-based organizations can compete in the procurement process.
- ◆ Competing for contracts can be a new process for many faith-based organizations. Competition is strong; begin exploring the process so you can be competitive.
- ◆ Most federal grants to faith-based organizations have been awarded. There are no state grants in human services currently available but grants do come up for bid throughout the year.





# Want to be a Vendor?

**Prospective vendors are encouraged to access the Idaho Purchasing web site:**

**<http://www2.state.id.us/adm/purchasing>**

**where up-to-date information about bidding opportunities,  
state purchasing personnel, purchasing rules and other information is displayed.**



# How to become a vendor?

**The State of Idaho does not require you to register to do business.**

**You  
may go on line to view contracts that are up for bid. There is no  
charge.**

**You also may choose to be notified by e-mail when a contract is  
posted for  
for the types of services your organization can deliver. There is a  
small  
fee for this service.**

- ◆ **Go to <http://www.sicomm.net>**
- ◆ **Click on sign-up and follow the instructions**
- ◆ **For help, call 1-800-575-9955**



# No Internet Access

**Paper copies of Requests for Proposal (RFP) are available and may be viewed here:**

**Idaho Division of Purchasing  
5569 Kendall  
Boise, ID 83706  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday through Friday**



# Learn About Contracts

**To learn about contracts and bids, instructions, terms and conditions, check this web site:**

**[http://www2.state.id.us/adm/purchasing/veninfo.  
htm](http://www2.state.id.us/adm/purchasing/veninfo.htm)**

**Click on the “Vendor's Guide to Doing Business with the State of Idaho.”**



# In a Nutshell...

- ◆ **The Charitable Choice Rule allows faith-based organizations to compete on an equal footing with other entities to provide services for people through State contracts.**
- ◆ **Charitable Choice expands the number of possible service providers in communities that government agencies can partner with.**
- ◆ **Recipients of services provided through faith-based organizations are protected from discrimination and proselytizing.**
- ◆ **Government funds cannot be spent for religious purposes.**